

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01210 161703Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----102361 161709Z /43

O 161627Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7482
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1210

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

LONDON PASS ASST SEC MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, ZA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON CPARIVI SITUATION

REF: CAPE TOWN 1202,

1. NEIL VAN HEERDEN CALLED POLCON THIS AFTERNOON, HUNE 16,
TO SAY THAT HE HAD PASSED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA
THE POINTS WE HAD MADE THIS MORNING ON THE CAPRIVI SITUATION
(REFTEL). VAN HEERDEN SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 01210 161703Z

CONFERRED WITH DEFENSE MINISTER P.W. BOTHA AND THEY HAD ASKED HIM
(VAN HEERDEN) TO PASS ON THEIR RESPONSE TO US. VAN HEERDEN
SAID THAT RESPONSE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HIM VERBALLY AND HE WAS
PASSING IT ON AS BEST AS HE COULD REMEMBER. FOLLOWING IS VAN
HEERDEN'S ACCOUNT:

QUOTE: WE HAVE TKN COGNIZANCE OF YOUR REMARKS ABOUT THE

SITUATION IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP AND WE CAN ASSURE YOU THAT SOUTH AFRICA INTENDS TO DO NOTHING IRRESPONSIBLE AND IS FULLY AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENTERING OTHER PEOPLES' TERRITORY. NEVERTHELESS, IF SWAPO MAKES ANY MOVE TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON KATIMA-MULILO, OUR ARMED FORCES ARE PREPARED AND EQUIPPED TO HURT THEM VERY VERY BADLY. ZAMBIA, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT CANNOT HARBOR INVADERS WITHOUT DIRE CONSEQUENCES. THE RECENT EXAMPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN SHABA IS PERTINENT. WHEREAS WE WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NOT REACT PRECIPITUOUSLY, WE WILL DEFEND OUR BORDERS. SWAPO SHOULD BE WARNED THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY PROVOCATION, IT WOULD RISK SERIOUS LOSSES. IF ZAMBIA HARBORS INVADERS, IT CANNOT EXPECT TO BE IMMUNE. IF WHAT AMOUNTS TO A SIZEABLE INVASION TAKES PLACE, WE WILL NOT ALLOW A REPETITION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN SHABA. END QUOTE.

2. POLCON RESPONDED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF RESPONDING ADEQUATELY TO ANY SWAPO MILITARY ACTION WITHIN THE BORDERS OF NAMIBIA. ANY SOUTH AFRICAN RESPONSE BEYOND THESE BORDERS WOULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. HE REPEATED THAT THE SAG WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO JUSTIFY EITHER A RETALIATORY OR A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE INTO ZAMBIA.

3. VAN HEERDEN REPLIED THAT THE SAG HAD FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONSEQUENCES AND GAVE DUE WEIGHT TO KEEPING THE WESTERN PROPOSAL VIABLE. BUT, HE REPEATED, THE SAG WOULD NOT PERMIT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 01210 161703Z

ZAMBIA TO REMAIN IMMUNE SHOULD AN INVASION BE LAUNCHED FROM ITS TERRITORY.
EDMONDSON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET01210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0350
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780652/aaaabskv.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9529e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 1202
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2326724
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SAG RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE ON CPARIVI SITUATION
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, ZA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9529e287-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014